SENATE BILL 3008 By Harper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 42, relative to public school students.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

- SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 42, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:
 - (a) Prior to commencement of fall classes for the 1996-1997 school year, and annually thereafter, each local and county board of education shall file with the commissioner of education written policies and procedures developed and adopted by the board:
 - (1) to ensure safe and secure learning environments free of drugs, drug paraphernalia, violence and dangerous weapons; and
 - (2) to impose swift, certain and severe disciplinary sanctions on any student:
 - (A) who brings a drug, drug paraphernalia or a dangerous weapon onto a school bus, onto school property or to any school event or activity;
 or
 - (B) who, while on a school bus, on school property or while attending any school event or activity:
 - (1) is under the influence of a drug; or
 - (2) possesses a drug, drug paraphernalia or dangerous weapon; or

- (3) assaults or threatens to assault a teacher, student or other person.
- (b) Each local and county board of education is encouraged to include within such policies and procedures a zero tolerance policy toward any student who engages in such misconduct. Such policies and procedures shall ensure that such misconduct is promptly reported to appropriate law enforcement authorities and may also provide for deployment of law enforcement officers and/or school safety and security personnel, use of dogs trained to detect marijuana and other drugs, conflict prevention and resolution programs and activities for staff and students, utilization of metal detectors, and/or adoption of uniform clothing styles for students.
- (c) At the beginning of fall classes each school year, each local and county board of education shall provide students and their parents with written notification of such policies and procedures. Additionally, each school shall conspicuously post a summary of such policies and procedures within each school.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.

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